

HONORING LONG ISLAND'S BEST
AND BRIGHTEST**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate three extraordinary young people who have been selected for USA TODAY's 1997 All-USA High School Academic First Team. The Academic First Team is composed of 20 individuals who were selected from among 6,826 high school students from across the Nation. It is both humbling and inspirational to listen to the accomplishments of these dynamic individuals.

Joshua Gewolb, of Port Washington, NY, has spent substantial time exploring the make-up of a solar cell. In fact, he was actually able to compress the basic architecture of a solar cell, into a single molecule, thus increasing the overall efficiency of the cell. Joshua also received a \$2,600 grant for his work which was used to purchase new equipment for his high school. In addition, Joshua is the editor of the newspaper at Paul Schreiber High School, and has won awards in speech and writing. If this wasn't enough, Joshua is also an accomplished cellist. He will be attending Harvard in the fall.

Davesh Maulik, of Roslyn, NY, has conducted world-class math research on the root permutations of polynomials. He has won three first place prizes at worldwide competitions. In addition, Davesh plays the violin in a chamber ensemble and is the senior editor of Roslyn High School's literary magazine. Davesh will be joining Joshua at Harvard University in the fall.

Joseph Turian, of Great Neck, NY, skipped a grade in elementary school and completed high school in 3 years. Thus, he will be graduating from Great Neck North High School at the age of 16. Joseph has done extensive work in the area of computer science. He taught a computer to write fairy tales of its own design and has also conducted substantial research on computer graphics. Joseph is also the editor of his high school newspaper and is a singer with the New York City Opera Children's Chorus. Joseph will also be attending Harvard University.

These three scholars truly embody the ideals of innovation, perseverance, and leadership. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating these young men, on their many accomplishments, and extending to them our best wishes for continued success.

THE TRIUMPHANT SPIRIT: DAYS
OF REMEMBRANCE**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as you and my colleagues know, this week marks the annual Days of Remembrance (Yom HaShoah), a time when ceremonies are held throughout the world to remember the six million victims of the Holocaust. It is most appropriate that each year we put aside our other routine daily ac-

tivities and remember those victims of intolerance, racism, and unmitigated evil.

Mr. Speaker, this year to mark the occasion of the Days of Remembrance, my colleague and good friend from New York, BENJAMIN GILMAN, and I are sponsoring a very special exhibit here on Capitol Hill—"The Triumphant Spirit," the work of Nick Del Calzo. This outstanding display, which will be in the Cannon rotunda from May 6 through May 17, is a unique collection of portraits and stories in which the subjects, the photographer, the editor and the author all embody magnificent and inspiring aspects of what has come to be known as the American dream.

Denver photographer Nick Del Calzo, a journalist and former media consultant, is living his dream by pursuing his third career, documentary portraiture.

Del Calzo, a first generation American and one of seven children of Italian immigrant parents, traveled to Europe in 1991 to create portraits of his own relatives in Italy, Belgium, and France. He took an unplanned detour to Dachau, the Nazi death camp he had studied as a student. Though not Jewish, Del Calzo became compelled to document the Jews who survived that and other killing camps. Over 5 years, he photographed 145 American survivors, and over those 5 years, again and again, he looked into the eyes of those who had witnessed man's most heinous horrors. Del Calzo's photography captures so powerfully and eloquently the abysmal pain and suffering they endured, and it also reflects the ability of the human spirit to transcend tragedy and to assert the power of good over evil. Del Calzo's work is part of a unique photo collection—both an exhibit and now, a magnificent and moving photographic book, all under the title of "The Triumphant Spirit."

These Jewish survivors in the book, and so many others like them, are the ultimate metaphor of the American dream. They survived the attempted genocide by Adolf Hitler's Third Reich when, from 1939 to 1945, six million European Jews were systematically murdered. They had the courage to survive, and now they have the courage to relive and share their stories. Each survivor's story is different, yet each so similar in their pain and tragedy. Each person is one of a few or the only survivor of their families. Each survivor's experience is dotted with poignant incidents of happenstance that defined the difference between life and death. Each is a story of luck, determination, devotion, and survival. Each story is a triumph of the human spirit. The survivors come from across America. Some are famous, some have led quiet and humble lives. Each came to this country with hope for a better life. It was here they fashioned their dreams, their futures, and their families with all that was afforded them in this land of opportunity. Their lives are lasting reminders about how precious is freedom, how enduring is the human spirit and how dangerous is intolerance.

Nick Del Calzo has noted: "The day will come when the last Holocaust witness will perish and these voices will be silenced forever. My hope is that by capturing their portraits and their messages, they can continue to inspire future generations and continuously rekindle hope for brighter tomorrows."

The portraits are truly inspirational. Some are against the backdrop of our Nation's most precious symbols of freedom and peace: the Lincoln Memorial, the Liberty Bell, the Statue

of Liberty and others. And some are in moving settings that speak volumes about each survivor's life in this country.

Del Calzo was encouraged through this project by his confidant and, later, editor of the book, Linda J. Raper of Richmond, IN. Again and again, against obstacles, suspicion and discouragement, these two individuals worked tirelessly as they crisscrossed the country, without financial reward, to make this extraordinary project a reality. Their contribution to the story of the survivors and to the education of all who must know what happened in the Holocaust is so very important. Through their work and travels, they have endeared themselves to so many survivors and their families who are grateful, not only for their work and dedication, but for their understanding, and devotion, particularly as non-Jews, to continue to tell the story. Nick and Linda were joined in their efforts by a second generation American, Renee Rockford, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor who appears in the book. A journalist and freelance writer in Denver, Renee eloquently captured in words the touching and painful stories of each of the survivors in the book. She has traveled throughout the world with her father in search of surviving family members, and now has put into words, sometimes for the first time, what these people endured. Never having found any of his six brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles, Rockford's father, David Bram, felt that his most important purpose was to keep their story and his story alive, and the Triumphant Spirit accomplishes that goal. In his portrait in the book, Bram, an Auschwitz survivor, is holding what is for him a precious memento and symbol of the destroyed communities and peoples of Europe, a Torah scroll confiscated and warehoused by the Nazis, and now on permanent loan to Bram's congregation in Colorado Springs, CO. That scroll is all that is left of an annihilated community in Czechoslovakia.

But what the survivors came to know and understand was that America was a different place where their freedom to create a life, choose their religion and pursue their dream was simply a question of hard work. And work they did. The survivors of the Triumphant Spirit represent everything from the largest envelope privately-owned manufacturer in the U.S., successful real estate developers, protectors of civil rights, artists, authors, educators, poets, doctors and researchers, mothers and fathers and much more. My wife, Annette, and I are fortunate enough to be included among those survivors immortalized by Del Calzo. Not only have these people made enormous contributions to the foundation and fabric of our great country, but they will continue to do so as their stories endure and inspire us with their triumphant spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take the time in the next 2 weeks to see this outstanding exhibit.

THE RECOVERY NETWORK

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 1997

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a part of the solution to our Nation's problem with addiction. The Recovery